

FY 2007 EQIP Program and Cost List Protocol

These protocols are to be used with the Idaho cost lists and program to determine the appropriate costs to use in the development of contracts that involve the cost sharing of conservation practices. The appropriate District Conservationist is responsible for ensuring that NRCS planning and contracting policies for the appropriate program are followed.

Costs shown for practices or components on the cost list represent all costs associated with their application, including (but not limited to) transportation, materials and appurtenances, labor, and installation unless specified as otherwise within these protocols or on the cost list itself. Installation of used equipment is allowed providing that equipment is completely refurbished according to the National Engineering Manual part 521 and purchased for the purpose of project construction. Please note the Idaho supplement to this section in regards to Center Pivots, pumps and motors. Used materials that are “on hand” and not purchased will not be paid for. Cost share will not be allowed for installation of used equipment that does not meet this requirement, based on the judgment of the District Conservationist in consultation with appropriate staff.

If the use of used equipment will substantially lower the cost of the practice below the estimated average cost and result in a “Windfall Profit”, District Conservationists shall apply a “Cost Share Cap” in the contract document to prevent such windfalls.

Tribal Cost List – This cost list is for Tribal lands with Tribal owners or operators only.

All cost share practices and/or components are either Flat Rate (FR) for management practices or Average Cost (AC) for other practice types. AM and AA cost share types are prohibited in all 2007 contracts

Suites of Practices:

- Several conservation practices offered in EQIP will only be available in FY 07 if selected as part of a “Suite of Practices”. The following is what will be required. The **bold practice(s) is the practice(s) that require additional management practices** to be accepted to be eligible for cost share of the “structural” practice. If the producer has already adopted the management practice and is performing at a level to meet NRCS standards, the practice is not to be included in the contract. Documentation of performance to the practice standard requirements is required.
 - **Irrigation Sprinkler or Surface Irrigation System**
 - Irrigation Water Management
 - Nutrient Management
 - **Livestock Water Development (Springs, Wells, Streams)**
 - **Fencing**

FY 2007 EQIP Program and Cost List Protocol

- **Range/Pasture Seeding**
- **Brush Management**
- Prescribed Grazing
- Forage Harvest Management

- **Sediment Basins**
- Residue Mgt practices
- Nutrient Mgt
- Irrigation Water Management
if applicable

Ineligible Costs: THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR COST-SHARE OR INCENTIVE PAYMENTS:

- Treatments to control insects, diseases, rodents, and nematode, unless authorized for a particular practice
- Weed control measures, unless authorized for a particular practice
- Mowing pastures, chopping or shredding residues from crops "for insect control", unless authorized for a particular practice
- Costs of supplemental requirements, such as abstaining from harvesting, protection from fire or grazing and similar provisions for which no payment is authorized
- Non-USDA fees such as permit fees
- Loss or reduction in revenue from the land
- Practices installed solely for production purposes
- Engines and motors

Exception: Permanently installed engines and/or motors that are required as an integral part of a conservation practice and which addresses air quality resource concerns in non-attainment areas may be eligible; as determined by the NRCS Designated Conservationist.

- Pumps and pumping equipment

Exception: Permanently installed pumps and pumping equipment that are required as an integral part of an animal waste storage system, tail-water recovery system, or as part of a conservation management system that primarily addresses irrigation induced erosion, water quality, or water conservation may be eligible as determined by the NRCS Designated Conservationist.

Portable pumps and pumping equipment for providing stock water may be eligible, as determined by the NRCS Designated Conservationist.

- Electric power hook-ups

Exception: Electric power hook-ups which address multiple resource concerns and utilize a renewable power source "and" are an integral part of a livestock or wildlife water delivery system where other power sources are impractical or energy conservation measures are in place. No power supply which requires the stringing of poles is authorized.

- Dry wells
- Boundary fences

FY 2007 EQIP Program and Cost List Protocol

Exception: Boundary or property line fences may be eligible, as determined by the NRCS Designated Conservationist, ONLY if:

(1) the fence is an integral part of a conservation management system, such as a planned grazing system that facilitates improved management of grazing land, or protects certain areas from livestock when it is necessary for proper use of the area, or

(2) the area adjacent to the boundary fence is vital to the success of the conservation management system

- Producer's transportation costs, unless authorized by a particular practice
- Providing land or the right to use water
- Rent or other costs of using land
- Extents greater than technically needed to meet the minimum practice standards
- Water supplies for human consumption. (Residential use water supplies are not cost shareable)
- Livestock buildings

Exception: Buildings as determined by the Designated Conservationist to be a necessary component of an animal waste system. Cost sharing will be prorated to that portion of the building solely used for animal waste handling or to achieve the water quality purpose.

EQIP Special Project – Energy Conservation: These funds are only for the conversion of an existing sprinkler system that can be converted from conventional power to fully gravity power with the exception of small amounts of other power sources to move the system. The contract may only contain water control structures and pipelines. There is a special ranking sheet for these projects. These applications will compete with each other on a statewide basis.

EQIP Special Project – Species of Concern: These funds are only for contracts that contain practices that provide a direct benefit to species of concern. Cost share is generally 75%. There is a special ranking sheet and special cost list for these contracts. These applications will compete with each other on a statewide basis. These projects require a letter of support from the appropriate agency that oversees the recovery of the species to be considered. That letter should confirm that all practices will have a direct beneficial affect on the species being considered.

Ranking System: All applications will be ranked only using the appropriate Protracts ranking system tied to the fund code of the application.

PRACTICE SPECIFIC GUIDANCE

Management Practices: It has been determined that the purpose of management practices is to introduce and educate a producer on the particular methods and actions needed to adopt a new style of management activity. Management practice incentives are not associated with a particular land unit as is a structural practice. However, this does not mean that in contracting these practices, a specific land unit on which the management will be applied does not need to be documented. It is necessary to document this information in order to determine compliance with the contract. All

FY 2007 EQIP Program and Cost List Protocol

management practices are limited to a maximum of 3 years per person or entity. An exception to the 3 year maximum participation rule may be granted in limited circumstances when the resource environment that the practice was originally planned for is significantly different. For further guidance, contact the EQIP program manager for more information.

Animal Waste Systems (Waste Storage Facilities and associated practices): There will be no “cap” placed on the total cost share for animal waste systems in FY 2007. All contracts with waste storage systems will include the development of a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) if one does not already exist that addresses the safe use of animal wastes. **The CNMP must be developed prior to the start of construction of the Waste Storage Facility practice. Please see EQIP manual 515.90 (c).**

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (100): Cost sharing for consultant developed CNMP’s will be limited to one plan per contract. This is an incentive payment only.

Conservation Cover (327): The following restriction applies: **Recommend no more than 33 percent alfalfa in seeding mixtures associated with the implementation of the Conservation Cover Conservation Practice under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).**

The issues considered in making this decision were:

1. Mixtures have proven value in controlling soil erosion, improving soil tilth and fertility, and in reducing water runoff.
2. Mixtures normally utilize more space, reducing potential invasion by weeds and the need of herbicides for weed control.
3. Feed trials indicate grass-legume mixtures are as nutritious and productive in terms of livestock products as legumes alone.
4. Forage yields are equal to and commonly higher than legumes or grasses alone.
5. Mixtures are more suitable for use as silage and can also be used for hay and pasture.
6. A grass-legume mixture has less bloat than a straight legume seeding. To help avoid bloat problems, a mix of 25-40% bloat type legume and 60-75% grass is recommended.

Irrigation Systems (442): Major Change: Cost share rates for irrigation sprinkler systems have been reduced. There will be no “cap” placed on the total cost share for irrigation systems in FY 2007. Please note that “irrigation system” is the cost per acre for the hardware only. It does not include any structures, pumps or pipelines. These must be planned separately. Cost share is not allowed for power poles, power lines, transformers, switches, or any other component associated with bringing power from the source to the electrical panel and/or phase converter. **Cost share is not allowed for conversion of**

FY 2007 EQIP Program and Cost List Protocol

non-irrigated areas to irrigation, or to replace one sprinkler irrigation system with another.

Irrigation System, Micro-Irrigation (441) –Costs for delivery pipelines and associated structures needed to get water to the field(s) where the system is installed are not included, and must be specified as separate components when necessary. Electrical power hook-up including hard wiring or any other device which provides the same function (i.e. generators, solar panels, etc.) is not eligible for cost-share. Cost share for components that have a useful life of less than 3 years may not be cost shared; ie, temporary drip tape that will not be recovered and used multiple years. Cost share is not allowed for power poles, power lines, transformers, switches, or any other component associated with bringing power from the source to the electrical panel and/or phase converter. Cost share is not allowed for conversion of non-irrigated areas to irrigation, or to replace one micro-irrigation system with another.

Irrigation System, Surface or Subsurface (443) – With the exception of surge irrigation systems and valves and hydrants, most components such as pipelines and structures for conventional surface irrigation systems are listed separately under appropriate component practice codes and names. Replacement of one surface irrigation system with another should not be cost shared unless there are significant benefits to identified resource concerns. Electrical power hook-up including hard wiring or any other device which provides the same function (i.e. Generators, solar panels, etc.) is not eligible for cost-share. Cost share is not allowed for power poles, power lines, transformers, switches, or any other component associated with bringing power from the source to the electrical panel and/or phase converter. Cost share is not allowed for conversion of non-irrigated areas to irrigation.

Irrigation Land Leveling (464) – Cost share for this practice will be limited to a maximum of 100 acres per contract. Cost share is not allowed for conversion of non-irrigated areas to irrigation, or to facilitate conversion of sprinkler or micro-irrigation systems to surface irrigation.

Nutrient Management (590): Nutrient management plans have flat rates paid per acre but have the following caps:

Animal Waste (0 to 40 Acres)*	ac	10.65	FR	100
Animal Waste (41 to 100 Acres)*	ac	5.35	FR	100
Animal Waste (> 100 Acres)*	ac	2.75	FR	100
Commercial Fertilizer (0 to 40 Acres)	ac	5	FR	100
Commercial Fertilizer (40 to 100 Acres)	ac	2.50	FR	100
Commercial Fertilizer (> 100 Acres)	ac	1.00	FR	100

* Rate increase for systems using animal waste due to new requirement to test materials prior to application. See practice standard.

Pasture and Hayland Planting (512): The following restriction applies: **Recommend no more than 33 percent alfalfa in seeding mixtures associated with the**

FY 2007 EQIP Program and Cost List Protocol

implementation of the Pasture and Hayland Conservation Practice under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

The issues considered in making this decision were:

7. Mixtures have proven value in controlling soil erosion, improving soil tilth and fertility, and in reducing water runoff.
8. Mixtures normally utilize more space, reducing potential invasion by weeds and the need of herbicides for weed control.
9. Feed trials indicate grass-legume mixtures are as nutritious and productive in terms of livestock products as legumes alone.
10. Forage yields are equal to and commonly higher than legumes or grasses alone.
11. Mixtures are more suitable for use as silage and can also be used for hay and pasture.
12. A grass-legume mixture has less bloat than a straight legume seeding. To help avoid bloat problems, a mix of 25-40% bloat type legume and 60-75% grass is recommended.

Pest Management (Noxious Weeds – 595): Cost sharing (a flat rate incentive payment) is available for noxious weed control only for noxious weed identified by the State of Idaho and occurring in rangeland areas only at a maximum of \$5,000 per year per person or entity for a maximum of three years. The noxious weeds must not be infesting more than 25% of the total field acreage and there must be some expectation that control of the weed can be accomplished. The acres cost shared MUST BE ONLY FOR THE ACRES THAT WILL BE TREATED, NOT THE ENTIRE FIELD.

Pest Management (Bio-Fumigants – 595): This new practice is for sugar beet and potato fields only. It is limited to 160 acres per year per individual or entity for a maximum of three years.

Pest Management (Insect Scouting – 595): This new practice is for insect scouting only. Scouting must be done by an individual that is qualified. Qualified means that the individual has received training in the identification of the insects and the accepted threshold levels that trigger control actions. Information on application of this practice must be entered on Idaho's form and include any information about spraying that took place based on scouting information.

Prescribed Grazing (528): There are two different rates for prescribed grazing:

Prescribed Grazing	Range Site (\$3,500 Max. per Yr.)	ac	2	FR	100
Prescribed Grazing	Pasture Site (\$3,500 Max. per Yr.)	ac	5	FR	100

Please note the difference and the maximum payments of \$3,500 per year. Like all management practices, an individual or entity may only receive payment for 3 years.

FY 2007 EQIP Program and Cost List Protocol

Residue Management Practices – 344 Residue Management Seasonal in no longer available for cost share and 345 Residue Management Mulch Till is available for cost share only on irrigated cropland.

Practices 344 and 345 are now considered by NRCS Idaho to be practices that are or should be commonly adopted as standard practices on dry cropland.

For the purpose of limitations and maximum cost share payments, all Residue Management practices will be considered together rather than as separate practices. A person may select one or several Residue Management practice types for cost share. **The maximum amount a person or entity may receive in any one year is raised to \$15,000 total for Residue Management practices.** The maximum number of years a person or entity may participate in a cost share program for payments for a single or grouping of Residue Management practices is **3 years for a maximum cost share payments of \$45,000.** **Example:** A person may cost share for No-Till on one portion of the farm and Mulch Till on a different portion of the farm, but cost share is limited to \$15,000 annually and \$45,000 over a three year period.

329	Residue Management	No Till	ac	30	FR
345	Residue Management	Mulch Till (Irrigated Cropland Only)	ac	15	FR

Subsurface Drain (606) – Use of this practice will be limited to situations where it will not result in loss of protected wetland areas.

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) - This flat rate cost will be used only if the cooperator is changing their current primary land use to wildlife. Please note the maximum of \$500 per year.

645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Upland Wildlife Habitat Mgmt. (\$500 Max) for 3 yrs.	ac	5	FR	100
-----	------------------------------------	--	----	---	----	-----

Use Exclusion (472) – Payments for application of this practice will be limited to use of the practice in riparian areas. Payments will not be provided where adoption of the practice has already occurred.

472	Use Exclusion	Livestock Exclusion (Riparian Only) for up to 3 yrs	ac	35	FR	100
-----	---------------	---	----	----	----	-----

Waste Storage Facility (313) – The following component average costs will be used in the calculation for the estimated cost of all components of a waste storage facility. Upon completion of the job estimate, using the average costs below, select the proper Waste Storage Facility average cost that is appropriate. In cases where the estimated cost is 25% or less over, round down in your selection. In cases where the

FY 2007 EQIP Program and Cost List Protocol

estimate is greater than 25% of the lower number, round up and select the higher average cost for the practice.

Code	Practice	Component	Unit	Average Cost
313	Waster Storage Facility	Above Ground Tank, < 80,000 cf	CuFt	0.90
313	Waster Storage Facility	Above Ground Tank, 80,000 to 125,000 cf	CuFt	0.70
313	Waster Storage Facility	Above Ground Tank, >125,000 cf	CuFt	0.45
313	Waster Storage Facility	Below Ground Tank	CuFt	3.30
313	Waster Storage Facility	Waste Storage Pond	CuFt	3.00
313	Waster Storage Facility	Roof Runoff	SqFt	10.00
313	Waster Storage Facility	Agitator	No	10,000.00
313	Waster Storage Facility	Manure Separator	No	30,000.00
313	Waster Storage Facility	Reinforced Concrete - Formed Walls, Supports and Structural Components	CuYd	550.00
313	Waster Storage Facility	Concrete, Non-Reinforced	CuYd	225.00
313	Waster Storage Facility	Concrete, Reinforced, Flatwork or Slab	CuYd	350.00
313	Waster Storage Facility	Compost, Mortality or Solid Waste Storage	CuYd	100.00
313	Waster Storage Facility	Compacted Fill (Imported)	CuYd	12.00
313	Waster Storage Facility	Compacted Fill	CuYd	7.50
313	Waster Storage Facility	Excavation - Backhoe	CuYd	8.50
313	Waster Storage Facility	Excavation - Dozer or Scraper	CuYd	5.40
313	Waster Storage Facility	Pump, Pipelines, Diversion, etc. - See EQIP Costlist		

Water Well – Livestock Watering (642) – Maximum depth will not exceed 500 feet for cost share consideration. Dry wells (unsuccessful) will receive no cost share.

Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644) - This flat rate cost will be used only if the cooperator is changing their current primary land use to wildlife. Please note the \$500 cap per year.

644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Mgmt.	Wildlife Wetland Habitat Mgmt. (\$500 maximum or cap.)	ac	5	FR	100
-----	--------------------------------	--	----	---	----	-----